



## PARRA NOTES

Friday, May 20

I know, I know, I promised to make my notes to you as short as possible but what can I say, there is a lot to report this week.

During the week I met with **Herman Ruddle** from the **Minter Field Airport District** in **Shafter**. Also visiting me were **Bill Prout** and **Tim Unruh** from the **Kern County Cemetery District**. On Tuesday I was shadowed by **Anne Moses** and **Catelina Ruiz** from **Emerge-Women for a Democratic Future**. Later that day, I had a very interactive meeting about public policy and the issues affecting the **Central Valley** with members of the **Leadership Kings Program**. Among those present in the meeting were **Hanford Sentinel** Publisher **Randy Rickman**, **Kings County Sheriff Allan McClain** and Agronomist for J.G. Boswell **James Mathews**. Also visiting me at the Capitol were **93 kids** from **Mark Twain Elementary School** in **Corcoran**. They were by far the most energetic group I have met with in a while. They all wanted to know if Governor Schwarzenegger's muscles were real. Wednesday was **California State Sheriff's Lobby Day** in the Capitol so I had the honor of meeting members of the **Kern, Kings and Fresno Sheriff's Departments**.

### Legislative Update

It was a pretty hectic legislative week. Many of my bills came up for vote including **AB 490**. It was approved by the Assembly and is now headed to the Senate for further consideration. On Wednesday, the Assembly Appropriations Committee approved my **ACR 58**, **AB 520** and **AB 1542**. They are all now headed to the Assembly floor for vote. Below is a brief description on each of these pieces of legislation, but if you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me.

**AB 490 Notice to Bid** will expand the bidding pool for school district contracts by requiring that bid notices be placed in construction trade journals, giving school districts more flexibility in selecting contracts. Current law requires only the placement of notices in local newspapers. Approved by the Assembly headed to Senate.

**ACR 58 Foster Care** will recognize the rights of foster youth as critical to ensuring their well-being and future. ACR 58 will also urge the State Departments of Social Services, Education, Mental Health and other designated entities to develop practices to inform foster youth of their rights and available resources. Headed to Assembly floor for vote.

**AB 520 Ag Commissioner** will allow County Agriculture Commissioners to impose fines to any person for misuse of the "California Grown" seal. No monetary penalties currently exist. Headed to the Assembly floor for vote.

**AB 1542 Judge Discretion on Sentencing** will amend section 1170.90 of the Penal Code to authorize judges to refer veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have been convicted of a crime to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration. Headed to the Assembly floor for vote.

## Other Highlights

### **VALLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

I am happy to report that individuals have now been selected to take part in the 30th Assembly District Valley Leadership Institute (VLI) being held in **Sacramento Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This year's VLI participants represent the diversity that make up the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. They have demonstrated that they are some of the Valley's best up-and-coming leaders.

But before we get to the list of participants I want to thank members of the selection committee; **Lemoore City Manager Jeff Briltz, Hand in Hand Executive Director Judy Horn, Hanford City Manager Jan Reynolds, Delano Businessman Jay Tamsi and Bakersfield Businesswoman Blodgie Rodriguez**. These individuals took time out of their busy schedules to ensure that no candidate was overlooked. Each committee member reviewed numerous applications based on previous leadership experience, resume, community involvement and written responses.

### **VALLEY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CLASS OF 2005**

Emma Perez	Hanford
Vikki Del Pellegrino	Bakersfield
Mary Gonzales-Gomez	Corcoran
Ryan Bertao	Hanford
Jennifer Wood	Visalia
Jeannette Lombardo	Hanford
Tilo Cortez	Wasco
Kim Hogue	Lemoore
Zona Hoggard	Corcoran
Suzanne Moreno	Fresno
Dino Giacomazzi	Hanford
Luciana Castaneda	Corcoran
Karen Gomez-Barerra	Tulare
Bryan Matthews	Bakersfield
Netti Morrison	Allensworth
Flor Sanchez	Arvin
Manuel Lopez	Laton
Justin Bond	Lemoore
Joe Tostado	Hanford
Shirley Harris	Bakersfield

#### Alternates

Oralia Vallejo	Fresno/Hanford
Liset Caudillo	Pixley

### **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

On Wednesday, I held a conference call with members of my Public Safety Advisory Group. I updated them on the budget and pension reform. Questions regarding mandated training for public safety employees were raised as many members had heard that several pieces of legislation had been introduced regarding this. I will look into this issue further and report back to members at our next meeting.

## **LEMOORE NAVAL AIR BASE**

I am sure by now many of you have heard that the federal government has decided to keep the Lemoore Naval Air Station off the U.S. Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure list and to grant it 40 additional employees. This is all wonderful news. We should all be proud to know that we are home to a top notch military base, but we must not let our guard down and assume that our base will not be targeted for closure in the future. We must continue to work together to ensure Lemoore Naval Air Base never ends up on the closure list.

## **HIGH SPEED RAIL**

I had mentioned in last weeks **Parra Notes** that the Assembly Budget Sub 5 committee had approved \$325,000 for a study that would explore the creation of a high speed rail stop between **Fresno** and **Bakersfield**. I am happy to report that this week the Senate Budget Sub 4 Committee approved the same amount for the High Speed Rail study.

## **GOT JOKES??**

In meeting with the guys from the **Kern County Cemetery District** I realized that the **Central Valley** is home to some pretty funny people. Despite working in what some would consider a depressing environment, these guys were pretty upbeat. So I got to thinking and realized that what better way to get people more interested in public policy and the issues affecting the Valley than by making the reading of my **Parra Notes** a bit more interesting. So from now on I will be featuring a joke from none other than you, the residents of the **Central Valley**. So if you have any good jokes or even some pretty bad ones e-mail them to my staffer Mary at [mary.gutierrez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:mary.gutierrez@asm.ca.gov). Please include your name and the city you reside in. And yes, all jokes must be PG13.

## **FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE**

On **July 9<sup>th</sup>** I will be hosting a Foster Care Conference at **California State University Bakersfield** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Joining me will be several organizations who will inform foster care youth and parents of available resources and rights. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at my Bakersfield District office at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov).

## **HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP**

The **Office of Statewide Planning and Development** has offered to participate in a conference call with members of my Health Advisory Group and anyone else interested to inform us on the various services their agency offers. If you are interested in participating please contact **Frank Stiger** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov)

## **SUMMER INTERNS WANTED**

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in my Hanford and Bakersfield district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. The application deadline is May 20th for summer interns. For more details, please contact Jeff Forbes at the Hanford office at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov). For Bakersfield office internships please contact Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov)

## **GRANTS**

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Jeff Forbes at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov) .

## Joke of the Week

This week's Joke of the Week is brought to you by **Shafter** resident **Bill Prout**.

**Q:** Why are men happier?

**A:** Your last name stays put. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. Wrinkles add character. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife.

## How to Contact me

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